THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A policy decision has been taken to link the Capitals of North Eastern States by rail. According construction of new lines from Kumarghat to Agartala and from Harmuti nagar have been tioned. Construction of a new line from Diphu to Karong as the first phase of the rail link to Imphal has been included in the Budget and would be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. Gauge conversion of line from Bairabi to Katak-hal as the first phase of line to Sairang/ Aizwal has also been included in the budget and would be taken up after reuisite clearances. A survey for construction of a rail line to Gangtok has also been sanctioned.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Losses due to rain and floods in Orissa

311. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated damage caused to Orissa by heavy rain and flood during the last monsoon season;

(b) the amount of fund needed to bear loss suffered by farmers and for the reconstruction of roads, ponds, canals and bridges in that State;

(c) the fund sanctioned by the Central Government for these purposes; and

(d) the details of the steps taken in the that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENU'JOPALACHARI): (a) According to reports received from the Government of Orissa, heavy rains and floods during the South-West monsoon, 1997, affected a population of 3.93 lakh in 19 districts claimed 29 human lives and damaged 8/678 houses and public prop-oerty worth Rs. 125.83 crore.

(b) Government of Orissa have assessed the requirements of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in various sectors at Rs. 125.84 crore.

(c) and (d) Under the existing scheme, the State Government undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities utilising the allocations of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). During 1997-98, the CRF allocation for Orissa is Rs. 51.72 crore consisting of a Central share of Rs. 38.79 crore and State share of Rs. 12.93 crore. Government of India have already released three instalments of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 29.09 crore to Government of Orissa during the current year.

Damage to- cotton crop in Punjab

312. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80% of the cotton crop in A bohar Fazilka of Ferozepur district and Muktsar Malout of Muktsar district in Punjab has been damaged due to American Ball Worm inspitc of many sprays of pesticides on the crop;

(b) what steps have been taken to stop such colossal loss to farmers; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to give them compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Information obtained from Govt, of Punjab reveals that cotton crop in parts of Abohar Fazilka areas of Ferozpur district and most of the area of Muktsar and Malout of Muktsar has been damaged due to heavy and prolonged rains resulting in water logging in, these areas. As per the information very little incidence of American Ballworm has been observed.

(b) and (c) The farmers were advised to spray the cotton crop as per recom-mendation of the State Department of Agriculture. Registration Committee has already approved a number of pesticides,

under the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968, like acephate, chlorpyriphos, endosulfan monocrotophos, phentheate, phosalone, phosphamidon for the control of American Bollworm on cotton crop. They were also advised to drain out the excess rain water from their fields to mitigate the affect of water logging. There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Govt, to give compensation to farmers for loss of the cotton crop.

Loss of Paddy Crop in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

313. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to conduct a survey of the paddy crop which suffered heavy loss due to a dangerous disease in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Ballia and Mau districts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of farmers have been forced to burn their paddy crop due to this disease;

(c) if so, the steps taken or likely to be taken prevent this disease and compensate farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) Regular survey of paddy and other crops is carried out by the Central and State Governments to monitor the pest and disease situation. No specific report has been received about any dangerous disease in Eastern Uttar Pradesh so far. However, a study would be conducted particularly in Bhallia and Mau districts to assess the disease, its impact and remedial measures required at an early date.

अनुपजाऊ भूमि की स्थिति

314. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव**: क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में बहुत बड़ा भू-भाग अनुपजाऊ है जिसके परिणाम स्वरुप उस भूमि से कोई लाभ नहीं मिल पा रहा है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने इस प्रकार की भूमि का समचित उपयोग करने के लिए कोई रणनीति बनाई है, और यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस संबंध में की गई कार्रवाई का ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. एस. वेणुगोपालाचारी): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग ने देश के उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों में निम्नीकृत भूमि का उत्पादकता को बेहतर बनाने हेतु इसके उपचार के लिए नदी घाटी परियोजनाओं तथा बाढ़ प्रवण निदयों के जल स्त्रवण क्षेत्रों में मृदा संरक्षण, क्षारीय मृदा का सुधार नामक योजनाएं तथा झूम खेती वाले क्षेत्रों में जल विकास परियोजना नामक विभिन्न केन्द्र द्वारा प्रयोजित योजनाएं शुरु की हैं। गहरी व तंग घाटी क्षेत्रों का सुधार और प्रबंध संबंधी कार्यक्रम भी इस विभाग में शुरु किया गया ता परन्तु राज्य क्षेत्र को स्थानान्तरित कर दिया गया। यूरोपीय आर्थिक समुदाय की सहायता से क्षारीय मृदा के सुधार तथा विकास पर एक अन्य योजना कार्यन्वित की जा रही है। इसके अतिरिक्त, बंजड़ भूमि विभाग, समेकित बंजड़ भूमि विकास की योजना कार्यान्वित करता है। 1996-97 तक 1362.11 करोड़ रुपए के व्यय से 54.06 लाख हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र का उपचार किया जा चुका है।

गोदुग्ध उत्पादन में कमी आना

315. **श्री नागमणि**: क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश में गोदुग्ध उत्पादन में हर वर्ष कमी आती जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) इस संबंध में सरकार क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. एस. वेणुगोपालाचारी): (क) जी, नहीं। गाय के दुध का